

MARTIN HEINRICH
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW MEXICO

THE CAPITOL
336 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6316

DOWNTOWN ALBUQUERQUE
505 MARQUETTE AVENUE NW, SUITE 1605
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102
(505) 346-6781

SOUTH VALLEY
3211 COORS BOULEVARD SW, SUITE B3
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87121
(505) 877-4069



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND PUBLIC LANDS

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July 27, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Room S 128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye:

I write to express my deep concerns regarding funding cuts made to small satellite programs in H.R. 2219, the fiscal year 2012 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

On July 8, 2011, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2219, which includes a number of positive provisions to support our troops and their families. However, H.R. 2219 also makes drastic cuts to national security space programs that may adversely affect the way our military operates.

Specifically, H.R. 2219 cuts roughly \$600 million across multiple small satellite program accounts including Operationally Responsive Space, Space Technology, Advanced Spacecraft Technology, Space and Missile T&E Center, and Rocket Systems Launch Program, which all seek to develop, acquire, field and employ space technologies faster and at a lower cost. Small, cost-effective satellites enable our military to reconstitute their capabilities should another satellite become inoperable and provide real tangible intelligence to our service members at both the tactical and strategic levels.

As you know, our military has become increasingly dependent on satellites for its daily operations. Global communications, navigation, and guided munitions all rely on satellites which provide game-changing advantages on the battlefield. Yet, H.R. 2219 makes substantial cuts to the very programs that help enable these capabilities.

At a time when more than 60 nations are operating satellites worldwide and China is demonstrating anti-satellite technologies, I fear these cuts are penny-wise and pound-foolish. We must cut federal spending—including defense—but spending cuts should not come at the expense of proven technologies that are also intended to lower costs.

Therefore, I urge you to restore funding for small satellite programs at the levels requested in the fiscal year 2012 President's Budget so we can help reign in rising costs and ensure our service members continue to have the unique advantages they possess on the battlefield.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
Member of Congress